Amendments to the Specification

SR 1/29/11

Please replace original paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

SR 1/29/11

[0071] A further embodiment is illustrated in Figure 15 where elements of structure similar to those previously discussed are designated with the same reference numeral followed by the lower case letter "c." This embodiment, for example, includes a sharp tip 32c. In this embodiment, the backing arm 36c also defines the slot 28c with the gathering arm 38c. In this embodiment, the gathering arm 38c is also cut to form the passage 42c. However, the cut forming this passage 42c forms an oblique angle with the length of the needle assembly 20c so that a stop 54 is formed at the distal end of the gathering arm 38c. This stop 54 is formed with a proximal tang 56 on the gathering arm 38c, which interferes with a distal tang 58 on the short portion [[44]]44c. It is the purpose of this stop 54 to prevent the gathering arm 38c from contacting the backing arm 36c and thereby restricting free movement of a captured suture.